



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control

*Preventing  
environmental  
damage from  
hazardous waste,  
and restoring  
contaminated  
sites for all  
Californians.*



State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

**Public Involvement, August 2006**

## Harvest House Church Cleans Up Soil Contamination

### Introduction

Clean up of soil contaminated with arsenic is proposed for the Harvest House Church (Site). The property is located at 42055 Blacow Road and 42483 Fremont Boulevard, Fremont, California. Soil containing arsenic was found on the property during a site investigation at levels which require cleanup. The cleanup of the arsenic contamination will allow the construction of new single-family homes on the property. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is overseeing the cleanup activities under a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement.

A proposed cleanup plan has been developed for arsenic at the Harvest House Church site. The cleanup plan, called a Draft Removal Action Workplan, (Draft RAW) describes in detail the investigation and alternatives to cleanup the Site. The draft RAW is available for review and comment at the information repositories listed on page 4 of this fact sheet.

This fact sheet will provide you with:

- Site History and Background
- Investigation Findings
- Summary of the Draft Removal Action Workplan
- Cleanup Alternatives
- California Environmental Quality Act – Notice of Exemption
- Next Steps

### Public Comment Period

We encourage you to review and comment on the draft RAW. DTSC will hold a 30-day public comment period beginning August 23, 2006 and end on September 21, 2006. All e-mailed comments must be submitted to DTSC no later than 5 p.m. on September 21, 2006.

Mail written comments:

Katharine Hilf, DTSC Project Manager  
700 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley, California 94710  
Call (510) 540-3817 or e-mail [Khilf@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Khilf@dtsc.ca.gov)

A public meeting will be considered if one is requested. Please submit a written request for a public meeting, including the issues to be raised to Ms. Kim Rhodes, Public Participation Specialist, DTSC 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826 or send an e-mail to [Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov) by September 21, 2006.

*For additional information about DTSC, please visit [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov)*



## Site History and Background

The Site was used for orchards beginning in the late 1930's. In 1958, the site was first developed as a church. The church was expanded with additional buildings in the late 1950's and has been used as a Church to present day. A Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) substation was located in the northwestern corner of the Site from at least the late 1930's to 1971. Although the PG&E equipment has been removed from this area, the original concrete pads are still present.

The site is located in a mixed commercial and residential area. Across the intersection of Blacow Road and Fremont Boulevard is the Fremont Square strip mall. The property is bordered to the north by Blacow Road, beyond which is an apartment complex and, Smart and Final store. Residences adjoin the property to the west and south.

## Investigation Findings

A series of site investigations were conducted in 2005 and 2006, to determine whether current or past land use had resulted in contamination that might pose a threat to public health and the environment. The investigations included the collection and analysis of soil samples from locations throughout the site. The soil samples were analyzed for metals, organochlorine pesticides, total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

The results found that the two feet of soil surrounding the former PG&E substation had elevated levels of arsenic. The presence of elevated arsenic near the former PG&E substation was most likely caused from the use of arsenic to control weed growth around electrical equipment.

## Draft Removal Action Workplan

The Draft RAW evaluates cleanup alternatives and identifies a preferred alternative which prevents or reduces potential risks to public health and the environment. A Draft RAW summarizes previous studies and identifies the possible removal alternatives. Removal alternatives are screened and evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness, ability to implement and cost. The Draft RAW then identifies the alternative DTSC recommends and believes is the most appropriate for the site.

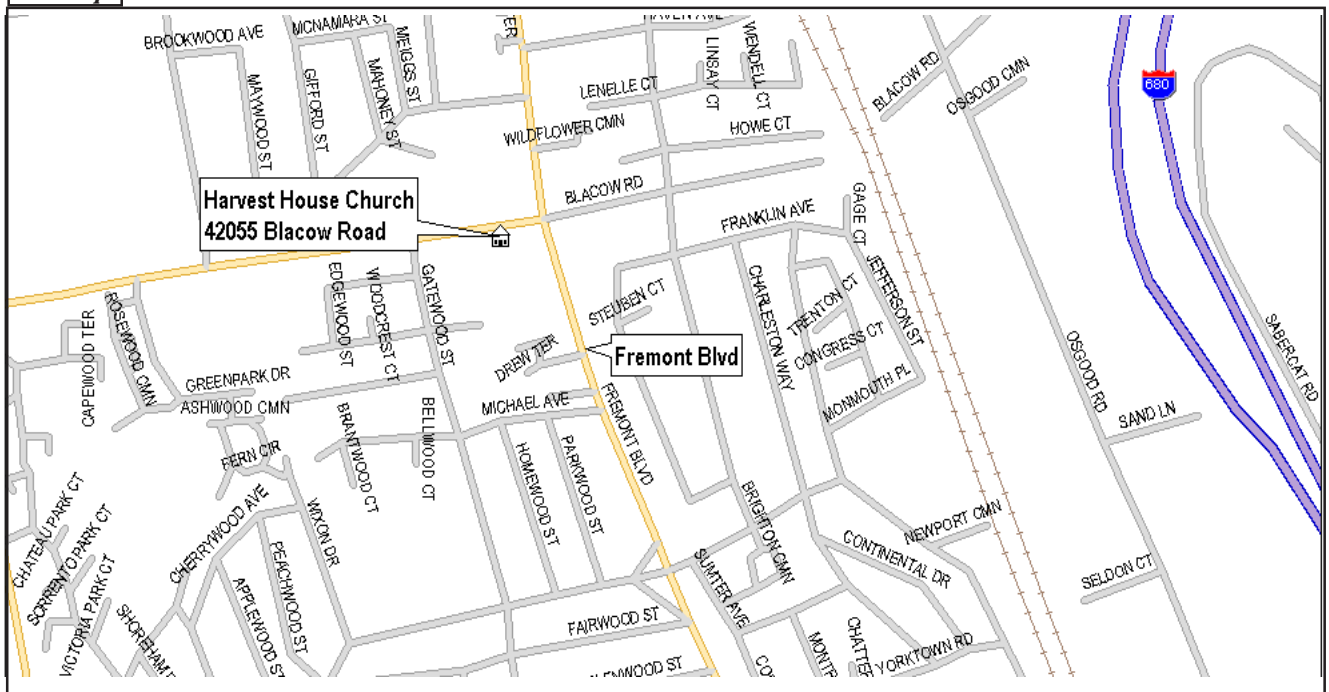
Before DTSC makes a final decision to approve or deny a Draft RAW, the Draft RAW is made available for public comment during a 30-day public comment period. All comments received from the public during the comment period are reviewed and considered before the Draft RAW is approved by DTSC.

## What are the Cleanup Alternatives?

Three cleanup alternatives were evaluated for the Harvest House Church property:

*Alternative 1 – No Action*

**Site Map**



*Alternative 2 - Capping and Institutional Controls.* This alternative would consist of placing a soil cap over the northwestern corner of the site putting restrictions on the use of the land.

*Alternative 3 - Excavation with off-site disposal.* This alternative would consist of excavation and removal of 550 cubic yards (approximately 27 truckloads) of contaminated soil from the site.

### **DTSC Recommendation**

DTSC proposes the third alternative as the best choice. It removes the contaminated soil and is easily implemented.

### **Summary of Proposed Draft Removal Action Workplan**

If the plan is approved, you can expect to see the following removal activities:

- Remove approximately 550 cubic yards (approximately 27 truckloads) of soil containing arsenic;
- Spray the soil with water to prevent dust from becoming airborne;
- Conduct airborne dust monitoring;
- Transport soil containing arsenic, using a licensed hazardous waste trucking contractor, to a State-licensed disposal facility;
- Backfill with clean imported soil;
- Conduct airborne dust monitoring;
- Spray the soil with water to prevent dust from becoming airborne; and
- Collect confirmation samples to ensure that all contamination above the cleanup levels has been removed; and
- Backfill with clean imported soil.

### **Truck Route**

Heavy equipment will be used to remove and load the contaminated soil into transport trucks to haul contaminated soil from the site on an as needed basis. The trucks will travel between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Trucks exiting the site will:

- Trucks will turn left onto Fremont Blvd, then make a right onto Washington Blvd;
- Trucks will then merge onto Interstate 680 (I-680) heading North;
- Trucks will then merge onto I-580 heading East to I-5;
- Exit either N. Greenville/Altamont Pass Road to the Waste Management Facility; or
- Merge onto I-5 heading south and take the Skyline Road to Kettleman Hills Landfill.

### **California Environmental Quality Act**

DTSC has evaluated the cleanup project, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements, to determine if the proposed cleanup will have any negative impacts on the environment. DTSC has determined that the cleanup will improve environmental quality, and does not have negative impacts on the environment. Therefore, a Notice of Exemption (NOE) has been prepared in accordance with CEQA. DTSC believes that the proposed removal action will not affect any community sensitive populations where people will be in or near areas such as schools, daycare centers, hospitals, clinics, senior centers, youth centers, and places of worship. The draft NOE is available for public review, along with other supporting documents.

### **Next Steps**

After the close of the comment period, DTSC will prepare a «Response to Comments» document. This document includes all of the comments we received about the Draft RAW during the 30-day public comment period. It will also provide DTSC's response to those comments. Anyone who submits comments regarding the Draft RAW will receive a copy of the Response to Comments document. A copy of the Response to Comments will be placed in the Information Repositories

### For More Information

If you would like more information about this Site or have questions about the Draft RAW and NOE please contact:

Katharine Hilf  
DTSC Project Manager  
(510) 540-3817  
or e-mail at [khilf@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:khilf@dtsc.ca.gov)

For information about public participation and community involvement, please contact:

Kim Rhodes  
DTSC Public Participation  
Toll-free (866) 495-5651  
(916) 255-3651  
or e-mail at [krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov)

For media questions, please contact:

Angela Blanchette  
DTSC Public Information Officer  
(510) 540-3732  
or e-mail at [ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov)

### Information Repositories

The draft RAW, NOE, and other related documents may be viewed at the following locations:

Fremont Public Library, Irvington Branch  
41825 Greenpark Drive  
Fremont, California, 94538  
(510) 795-2631

Hours: Mon & Tues: 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Wed & Thurs: 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Fri & Sat: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
(Closed Sundays)

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
700 Heinz Avenue  
Berkeley, California 94710

File Room:

Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
By appointment only (510) 540-3800

### Anuncio

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de ésta información, favor de llamar a Jesus Cruz, Departamento de Control de Substancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (916) 255-3315.

### Notice to hearing impaired individuals

TDD users can obtain information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at (888) 877-5378. Please ask to speak with Kim Rhodes, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (916) 255-3651.

For additional information on the Harvest House Church Site, please visit the following link:

[http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=60000289](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=60000289)